

poems
to
be
read
at
3:00 a.m.



for young adults

CAUGHT IN THE QUIET

Rod McKuen

“Loving
is the only sure road
out of darkness . . .”

A CHIME OF WINDBELLS

Harold Stewart

The delicate perfume of spring, summer fields of flowers, a whir of wings in autumn, winter's crackling cold — the essence of each season is caught in haiku.

CITY IN ALL DIRECTIONS

Arnold Adoff, comp.

The city's incessant beat resounds in the rattle of a subway train, in the whack of a broomstick bat, in footsteps echoing down night streets.

A CONEY ISLAND OF THE MIND

Lawrence Ferlinghetti

“America . . .
(a) surrealist landscape of
mindless prairies
supermarket suburbs . . .
cinerama holy days . . .
(and) drugged store cowboys . . .”

CYBERNAUT

Evans G. Valens

In an antiseptic spaceship with computers for a crew, a latter-day Columbus describes the abysmal loneliness, the utter nothingness that surround a man hurtling through space.

I AM THE DARKER BROTHER

Arnold Adoff, comp.

The voices of Negro poets rise above the din of crowded streets and the stench of back alleys to reaffirm the indestructibility of the human spirit.

THE INNER CITY MOTHER GOOSE

Eve Merriam

Nursery rhymes for now begin
“There was a crooked man,
And he did very well.”

THE LORDS AND THE NEW CREATURES

Jim Morrison

The composer and lead singer for The Doors views the drug and movie scenes, the money hustle, and other hang-ups of today.

THE MASON WILLIAMS READING MATTER

Mason D. Williams

“To be poetic is to bare one's soul
To show all of the holes and patches.”

POP POEMS

Ronald Gross

you've never seen before
such non-poems to make you roar.
great fun, read some
today
OK
?

REFLECTIONS ON A GIFT OF WATERMELON PICKLE

Stephen Dunning, comp.

From John Updike's commentary on the sonic boom to Phyllis McGinley's spoof of the "miles of smiles" on TV, here are poems that reflect today's moods and images.

SELECTED POEMS, 1956-1968 Leonard Cohen

In evocative verse a contemporary minnesinger celebrates the joy and despair of love, and probes the foibles of humanity.

SOME HAYSTACKS DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY NEEDLE

Stephen Dunning, comp.

Poetry for the "wild, zany, tense, tender, stark, violent" now.

SOULSCRIPT

June Jordan, comp.

"...in tears, in rage, in hope, ...in overwhelming rhetorical scream," Negro poets speak of black spirit, black survival, and black dreams.

THE TENDER BOUGH

Mary Lee

He is "strong and young," she is a "little girl grown/ paining like a woman." Their love envelops them in a joyous world where they are "alone but alone together."

TO PLAY MAN NUMBER ONE

Sara Hannum, comp.

"Things as they are

Are changed upon the blue guitar."

Contemporary poets, each playing his own blue guitar, examine modern conflicts between fear and hope, destruction and peace.

TONIGHT AT NOON

Adrian Henri

Can a poem be a letter, a news item, a collage of disparate materials, even instructions for an audience to act out? A poet-painter experiments with way-out ways to communicate.

WHO LOOK AT ME

June Jordan

A young black poetess views the plight of her people in

"that white terrain

impossible for black America to thrive."

WHO REALLY CARES

Janis Ian

The outer edges of loneliness, the tenderness of new love, and her generation's growing disillusionment with today's world are explored by a young folksinger.

THE WRITING ON THE WALL

Walter Lowenfels, comp.

"Put an end to the mistakes
before they put an end
to us . . ."

Angry voices cry out against the way it is and for the way it should be.

THE YOUNG AMERICAN POETS

Paul Carroll, comp.

Fifty-four young poets speak in bold, new ways of passion, involvement, and "what it is to *be*, in a particular skin and at a particular time and place . . ."

Compiled by a group of librarians
working with young adults
at the
Boston Public Library

The title of this list, *Poems to Be Read at 3 A.M.*, was inspired by Donald Justice's "Poem to Be Read at 3 A.M." in Stephen Dunning et al, *Some Haystacks Don't Even Have Any Needle* (Lothrop).

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